

REMARKS

The examiner rejected claim 5 under 112 because it was not clear how the alignment member can extend the hole former.

The claim has been amended to show that the spacer displaces the hole former rather than extends it.

The examiner objected to claims 3-5 because of the following informalities.

For claim 3 “the spacer” has no antecedent basis.

For claim 4 “the invert” should be “the invert mold”.

For claim 5 the word “the” should be inserted before the phrase “ alignment member”

Corrections have been made to all the above informalities.

Claims 1-5 were rejected as being unpatentable over Moore in view of Ditcher.

Claim 1 has been amended to show that the aperture along the length of the central axis through the alignment member. Thus a bore extends through the entire hole former which aids in alignment with the tube extending through the invert when a rod is inserted through the length of both.

Both Moore and Ditcher use two plates facing each other with aligned apertures in the plates. Holes in the plates do not align the entire length of the hole former and the invert pipe to force the two to have a common central axis as well as a tube or central bore passing through the length of the hole former and a large portion of the invert pipe.

The problem has been the alignment has not been good enough to prevent leaks at the interface of the molded invert and the pipe connected thereto. The applicant having a long central axis aperture in the hole former aligned with a long central axis tube in the invert



improves the alignment and prevents leaks. Neither Moore or Ditcher or the combination of Moore and Ditcher teach the improved alignment by having a long central axis bore in the hole former and a long central axis tube in the invert with a long bar running therethrough to align the hole former and the invert along their lengths so that the molded invert has properly aligned openings for the attachment of pipes without the pipes leaking.

The face to face plates of Moore figure 7 with the bolt therethrough allow for the non attached end of hole former 86 to be off center.

Similarly the rod 26 in Ditcher (Fig. 3) only passes through a hole in a plate on the hole former so that it can be misaligned with the invert particularly when there is play in the registration pin 26 between the opening in the face plate 14b-2 in Fig. 1 and the slidable mounting for the pin in the invert.

The applicant has solved the alignment problem by having the bar pass through a central bore in the hole former and a central tube in the invert to align the entire length of both pieces thus improving the alignment of the two pieces and preventing leaks between the molded invert and the pipe connected to it.

The invention solves a long felt need to prevent leaks due to misalignments in molded inverts. Invert molding is a crowded art and is therefore believed that the improvement presented are not obvious since nobody has solved the leakage due to misalignment problem before the applicant. Further, in a crowded art even small improvements are a step forward in the art and deserve patent protection.